

THE SENATE IS YET TO ACT

Jefferson City, Mo.

Needs of State Shown in Report

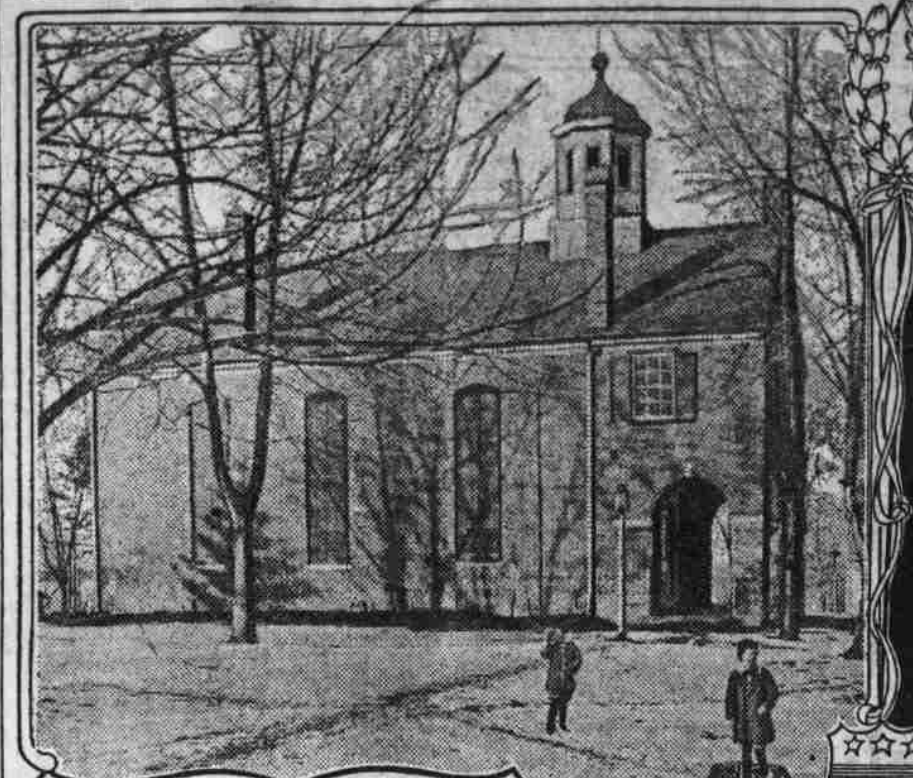
To Suppress Mob.

First Bill Passed.

New Source of State Income.

Britton Commenda House

Washington's Will Saved to Posterity



Document Has Been Restored and Now Rests in Courthouse Where It Was Filed for Probate in 1800.

FAIRFAX COURTHOUSE
WHERE WASHINGTON'S WILL
WAS FILED

partment paper surgeons was rendered unavailable.

As a labor of love and appreciation for the historical value of the document and its famous author, the library of congress finally volunteered to send its most expert manuscript repairer down to Fairfax to make the repairs and put the 24 pages into a condition that would insure them against further destruction. This entailed the shipping to Fairfax of considerable equipment, including a heavy press.

To put the battered paper in good condition required 16 days of the most painstaking work on the part of William Berwick, the library's skilled manuscript mender, who made daily trips to the quaint old courthouse. The first step toward restoration after he had photographed every one of the ragged pages was setting the ink. This was done by a liquid process or bath designed to prevent further fading. Then each one of the sheets was backed or mounted upon crepeine, a sort of transparent durable silk gauze, which allowed any reasonable amount of handling. Then came an endless amount of scraping, patching, pasting and cutting which only the deftest, most expert fingers could do, and the results would not have been so remarkably satisfactory but for a most fortunate circumstance.

When it came to grafting new material into the old manuscript to replace the old which had been worn away, the great problem lay in finding new material that would match in texture and color—that upon which the will was written. Mr. Berwick was in despair as to where to find paper for the patches which would make the will look as good as new, when by a lucky chance in a second-hand book store in Washington a number of blank sheets of the writing paper which George Washington had made especially for his personal use were discovered. This was exactly what was wanted and now, unless one holds the sheets of the restored will in such a position that the bright light will shine through them, there is no way of telling where the old part, or rather the original part, leaves off and the grafted sections begin.

When Mr. Berwick completed his task, which cost the Fairfax authorities nothing, the sheets of the document, mounted upon cardboard, bound in the form of a book mounted with a handsome red levant cover, were placed in a steel fireproof and burglarproof safe constructed especially for the purpose, in accordance with the specifications of the government officials.

The will, which has been called the most valuable relic of any left to posterity by the father of his country—more valuable than the sword, books, furniture or china, in view of the fact that it more faithfully portrays the mind of the man himself, reflecting his personality as nothing else could do so perfectly, opens as follows:

I, George Washington, of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States and lately president of the same, do make, ordain and declare this instrument, which I have written with my own hand and every page thereof subscribed with my name to be my last will and testament, revoking all others.

In it he directs that:

To my beloved wife, Martha Washington, I give and bequeath the use and benefit of my entire estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specifically disposed of.

He also ordered that his body be interred "in a quiet manner, without parade or funeral oration."

One clause, which has been extensively quoted is as follows:

Upon the decease of my wife it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in my own right shall receive their freedom.

Concerning the disposition of his slaves, the general gave more explicit directions than to any other part of his estate, and he especially directed that none of them should be sold outside of Virginia.

He directed that his debts, which he said were "few and none of great magnitude," be "promptly and speedily paid." He also called attention

to the fact that many of the young men of the United States were being sent abroad to foreign countries to be educated and were contracting habits of dissipation and principles unfriendly to republican government. To aid in stopping this he gave 50 shares in the Potomac company toward the endowment of a university within the District of Columbia under the auspices of the general government. He also made provision

his will for the construction of a new family vault at Mount Vernon, in which might be placed the remains of himself and his near relatives.

The will may be seen through the glass side of the vault in which it is deposited, before which hang heavy green curtains to exclude the light.

Fairfax Court House is doubly rich in view of the fact that it now also treasures the will of Martha Washington, also returned to it after many years of wandering. It was signed on Sep-

[illegible]

A PAGE FROM WASHINGTON'S WILL BEFORE IT WAS REPAIRED

tember 22, 1800. This will is not nearly so long nor so involved as that of General Washington. It was probated in 1802 by George Washington Parke Custis and Thomas Peter, two of the executors. It was taken up with the disposition of household effects and provisions for the education of her relatives. Three granddaughters, four nieces, her grandson, four nephews, a grandniece and other distant relatives and friends are mentioned. To them she gave paintings, town lots and to nearly all of them she gave from five to ten guineas with which to buy rings.

One of the odd provisions was: "It is my will and desire that Ann Maria Washington, daughter of my niece, be put into handsome mourning at my death at the expense of my estate, and I bequeath to her ten guineas to buy a ring."

Another unusual order reads: "It is my will and desire that all of the wine in bottles in the vaults be equally divided between my granddaughters and grandson, to each of whom I bequeath ten guineas to buy a ring for each."

All of the family pictures, except a few specifically mentioned, were left to George Washington Parke Custis, and to him went a large collection of household furnishings, including beds, water coolers, china and furniture. Special provision was made for the education of three nephews, who were to be fitted in "some useful trade," and she made a further provision that 100 pounds be given to each to set him up in his trade.

The belated return of these two famous documents, so essentially personal and human in their contents, to the little courthouse where they were both filed for probate over a century ago has made of Fairfax Court House another Mecca for the history-loving tourist, and it is rapidly falling into line after Mount Vernon and Alexandria in point of popularity.

New York state had no part in the election of the first president of the United States. For some years following the establishment of the federal government, the legislatures of most of the states chose the presidential electors, the people voting for them only indirectly, their choice being expressed by their votes for legislators. A deadlock between the senate and the assembly prevented the selection of electors from New York state. Rhode Island and North Carolina had not yet ratified the Constitution, so Washington was elected the first time by the votes of only ten of the 13 states.

New York city was the scene of the first inauguration, however. Washington took the oath on the portico of Federal hall, on the present site of the treasury, at Wall and Nassau streets, April 30, 1789. Immediately following this ceremony he retired within the building and delivered an address to congress, which met in Federal hall in those days. John Adams, the second president also addressed congress in person, but Jefferson broke the custom which President Wilson has revived. Jefferson stigmatized that form of address as monarchical and put his message in writing. — New York Sun.

At the late date of 1827 a wish expressed by George Washington in his will was obeyed. He had called attention to his selection of a spot for a new tomb for himself and family and those of the family already buried in the old vault. The old tomb was disadvantageously situated on the side of a hill which was subject to landslides. For the new vault he specified not only the spot but also dimensions and materials. According to these, his own plans, a tomb was built, and his and Mrs. Washington's bodies were transferred to it, along with the remains in the old vault of other members of the family. The latter were buried within the vault, out of sight, while the bodies of General and Mrs. Washington are in stone coffins above the ground, within plain view between a grated iron doorway.

"You have a realistic picture to advertise your breakfast food."

"You used to promise anything that might please the voter's fancy."

"Yes," observed Senator Sorghum. "I don't care that any more. Voters are getting so notionary you can't even tell what kind of a promise is going to suit their fancy."